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I. *An Account of the Cinnamon Tree in* Ceylon, *and its ſeveral Sorts. Communicated by the Chief Inſpector of the Cinnamon Trade and Manufacture in that Iſland to* Albertus Seba, *a noted Druggiſt at* Amſterdam. *Tranſlated by the late Dr.* Scheuchzer, *F. R. S.*

THE firſt and beſt Sort of Cinnamon, which grows in great Plenty in *Ceylon*, and is peculiar to that Iſland, is call'd by the Natives *Raſſe Coronde*, which is as much as to ſay, ſharp, ſweet Cinnamon. 'Tis this choice Sort, which is exported Yearly by the *Dutch Eaſt-India-Company*, by whom it hath been prohibited under ſevere Penalties, that no other Sort whatever ſhould be mix'd with it.

The ſecond Sort is call'd *Canatte Coronde*, that is, bitter and adſtringent Cinnamon; for the *Ceyloneſe*, in their Language, call Cinnamon in general *Coronde*, and *Canatte* ſignifies bitter and adſtringent. The Bark of this Tree comes off very eaſily, and ſmells very agreeably when freſh, but hath a bitter Taſte. It is an Advantage to us, that it doth not grow in great Plenty hereabouts, becauſe elſe one might eaſily miſtake it for a better; as indeed, in general, it requires a good deal of Skill and Attention ſo to diſtinguiſh the Cinnamon Trees from each other, as not to chooſe now and then a worſe Sort for the beſt. The Root of this ſecond Tree yields a very good ſort of Camphire.

The third Sort is call'd by the *Ceyloneſe*, *Cappe-roe Coronde*, which is as much as to ſay, Campho-rated Cinnamon, becauſe it hath a very ſtrong Smell and Taſte of Camphire. It grows plentifully enough in the Iſland, but not in the Eaſtern Parts of it: However, they find Means now and then to ſend it over privately, and ſell it to the *Danes* and *Engliſh*, who come to Trade upon the Coaſts of *Cormandel*; for as long as there is but one Port in the Iſland left open, abundance of this ſort of bad Merchandize may be exported. Beſides, there is a ſort of a *Canella*, growing upon the Continent of *India*, about *Goa*, which is very like this ſort of Cinnamon Tree, though it hath nothing of the true Cinnamon. The ſame ſort of *Canella* agrees in many Things with the *Canella Malabarica Sylveſtris*, a wild Cinnamon Tree, growing upon the Coaſts of *Malabar*. And although with regard to the Shape of the Tree, and the outward Appearance of the Bark and Leaves, there is very little Difference to be obſerved between theſe two ſorts of *Canella*, and the above-mentioned firſt and good ſort of Cinnamon, yet the latter is vaſtly ſuperior in Richneſs, Virtue and Sweetneſs.

The fourth Sort of Cinnamon is called by the *Ceyloneſe*, *Welle Coronde*, that is, the *Sandy Cinnamon*, becauſe upon chewing it, one feels as it were, Bits of Sand between the Teeth, though in Fact there is nothing Sandy in it. The Bark of this Tree comes off eaſily enough, but is not ſo eaſily roll'd up into a fibular Form, as other ſorts of Cinnamon are, being apt to burſt open and to unfold it ſelf. It is of a ſharp and bitteriſh Taſte, and the Root of it yields but a ſmall Quantity of Camphire.

The fifth Sort is called *Sewel-Coronde*, *Sewel* in the *Ceyloneſe* Language ſignifies mucilaginous, or glutinous. This ſort of Cinnamon acquires, in drying, a very conſiderable Degree of Hardneſs, which upon chewing of it ſufficiently ſhews it ſelf. It hath otherwiſe but little Taſte, and an ungrateful Smell; but the Colour of it is very fine, and it is not many Years ſince I firſt took Notice, that the Natives, who are all Blacks, mix a good deal of this mucilaginous Cinnamon along with the firſt and beſt Sort, the Colour of both being very much alike, excepting only, that in the good Sort there are ſome few yellowiſh Spots appear towards the Extremities.

The ſixth Sort is called by the Natives *Nieke Coronde*, the Tree which bears it, having a good deal of Reſemblance to another Tree, which is by them called *Nieke Gas*, and the Fruit it bears *Nieke*. The Bark of this ſort of Cinnamon Tree, hath no manner of Taſte or Smell, when taken off, and is made uſe of by the Natives only in Phyſick. For by roaſting of it they obtain a Water and Oil, which they anoint themſelves withal, thinking thereby to keep off all ſorts of noxious Fumes, and Infections in the Air. They likewiſe expreſs a Juice out of the Leaves of it, which they ſay cools and ſtrengthens the Brain, if the Head be rubb'd with it.

The ſeventh Sort is called *Dawel-Coronde*, that is, Drum-Cinnamon, in *Low Dutch Trommel-Caneel*: The Reaſon of this Appellation is, becauſe the Wood of this Tree, when it is grown hard enough, is light and tough, and that Sort, of which the Natives make ſome of their Veſſels and Drums, which they call *Dawel*. The Bark is taken off, when the Tree

grows as yet, and is of a pale Colour: The Natives uſe it in the ſame Manner with the ſixth Sort.

The eighth Sort is called *Catte-Coronde*, that is, the thorny or prickly Cinnamon; *Catte*, in the *Ceyloneſe* Language, is a Thorn, or Prickle; accordingly this Tree is very prickly. The Bark is in ſome Meaſure like Cinnamon, but the Leaves differ very much, and the Bark it ſelf hath nothing either of the Taſte or Smell of Cinnamon. The Natives uſe the Root, Bark and Leaves of this Tree in Phyſick, applying them in Form of Cataplaſms, to Tumours and Swellings from a thick corrupt Blood, which they ſay it cures in a ſhort Time.

The ninth Sort is called *Mael Coronde*, or the Flowering Cinnamon, becauſe this Tree is always in Bloſſom. The Flowers come neareſt to thoſe of the firſt and beſt Sort, called *Raſſe Coronde*, but they bear no Fruit, which the other doth. The Subſtance of the Wood becomes never ſo ſolid and weighty in this, as in the other Cinnamon Trees above-mentioned, which have ſometimes eight, nine, or ten Feet in Circumference. If this everflowering Cinnamon Tree be cut, or bored into, a limpid Water will iſſue out of the Wound, as it doth out of the *European Birch Tree*, but it is of no Uſe, no more than the Leaves and Bark.

The Inhabitants of *Ceylon* ſay, that there is ſtill another Sort of Cinnamon, which they call *Toupat Coronde*, or the three Leave Cinnamon. It doth not grow in that Part of the Country which the *Dutch Eaſt-India* Company is poſſeſs'd of, but higher up towards *Candia*. Having never ſeen it my ſelf, I will alſo, out of regard to Truth, ſay nothing farther of it.

And

And thus, Sir, I have given you, I hope, a ſatiſfactory Account of the ſeveral Sorts of Cinnamon Trees growing in this Country. I can aſſure you, that you are the firſt to whom I ever communicated ſo particular a Deſcription; for having been for almoſt theſe fifteen Years laſt paſt, employed as chief Inſpector of the Cinnamon Trade and Manufacture here, I have with much Pains and Attention, ſo ſtrictly enquired into this Matter, that at laſt I found out all the ſeveral ſorts of bad Cinnamon, which were formerly mix'd with the true and good one; and have been able to ſhew Samples of the Bark, Root and Leaves of every one of them to our Directors, who thereupon, to ſhew their Satisfaction, that a Thing of that Conſequence was at laſt, after many laborious Searches diſcovered, and thinking it a Thing well worth a farther Enquiry, were pleaſed to augment the Yearly Salary annex'd to this Office.

It now remains, that I ſhould inform you, in how many Years the Cinnamon Trees grow ripe enough, and become fit to have the Bark ſtript off. And here I will confine my ſelf only to the firſt and beſt Sort, which is Yearly exported by the Company, and what I ſhall mention of it, may ſerve at the ſame Time to anſwer in ſome Meaſure ſuch Queries as might be made about the others.

All the ſeveral ſorts of Cinnamon Trees, the beſt as well as the reſt, muſt grow a certain Number of Years, before the Bark is fit to be taken off: With this Difference however, that ſome of the Trees of the ſame ſort, as for Inſtance of the firſt and beſt, will ripen two or three Years ſooner than others, which is owing to the Difference of the Soil they grow in; thoſe for In-

ſtance, which grow in Vallies, where the Ground is a fine whitiſh Sand (and there are many ſuch Vallies in the Iſland of *Ceylon*) will in five Years Time be fit to have the Bark taken off: Others on the contrary, which ſtand in a wet ſlimy Soil, muſt have ſeven or eight Years Time to grow, before they are ripe enough. Again, thoſe Trees are later, which grow in the Shade of other larger Trees, whereby the Sun is kept from their Roots: And hence alſo it is, that the Bark of ſuch Trees hath not that Sweetneſs and agreeable Taſte obſervable in the Bark of thoſe Trees which grow in a white Sandy Ground, where with little Wet they ſtand full expoſed to the Sun, but is rather of a bitteriſh Taſte, ſomething adſtringent, and ſmells like Camphire.

For by the Heat of the Sun's Rays the Camphire is made ſo thin and volatile, that it riſes up and mixes with the Juices of the Tree, where it undergoes a ſmall Fermentation, and then riſing ſtill higher between the Subſtance of the Wood, and the thin inner Membrane of the Bark, it is at laſt ſo effectually diffuſed through the Branches and Leaves, that there is not the leaſt Footſtep of it to be perceived any where. Mean while that thin and glutinous Membrane, which lines the Bark on the Inſide between it and the Subſtance of the Wood, attracts and ſucks in all the pureſt, ſweeteſt, and moſt agreeable Particles of the Juice, leaving the thick and groſs ones, which are puſh'd forward, and ſerve to nouriſh the Branches, Leaves, and Fruit.

What I here mention, is conform to my own Obſervations, and I have often had Occaſion to prove this Fact to curious Perſons by the Things themſelves. For if the Bark be freſh taken off, that Juice which remains

remains in the Tree hath a bitteriſh Taſte, not unlike that of Cloves. On the contrary, if you taſte the inner Membrane of the Bark, when freſh taken off, you'll find it a moſt exquiſite Sweetneſs, extreamly agreeable to the Taſte, whereas the outward Part of the Bark differs but very little in Taſte from the common Trees; which ſhews plainly that all the Sweetneſs of it is owing only to the inner Membrane. But when the Bark is laid in the Sun in order to its being dried and wound up, this Oily and agreeable Sweetneſs of the inner Membrane communicates and diffuſes it ſelf alſo throughout the whole outward Part of it (which however hath been firſt ſtripp'd, when as yet upon the Tree, of its outermoſt greeniſh Coat) and imbues it ſo ſtrongly, as to make the Bark a Commodity, which for the Fragrancy of its Smell, and the Sweetneſs of its Taſte, is coveted all over the World.

It may not be amiſs to take Notice alſo, how many Years the Cinnamon Trees, when they are once come to a full Maturity, will continue in that State, ſo that the Bark, when taken off, ſhall have loſt nothing of its Sweetneſs and Virtue. And in order to clear up this Point, it muſt be obſerved, that the Bark may as yet be taken off from Trees which have ſtood fourteen, fifteen, or ſixteen Years, according to the Quality of the Soil they ſtand in: But beyond that Time they grow thicker, and loſe, by Degrees, their Taſte and agreeable Sweetneſs, which makes the Bark have more of the Taſte of Camphire: Beſides, the Bark is then grown ſo thick, that if it be laid in the Sun, it will no longer ſhrink and wind it ſelf up, but remain flat.

And here it may be thought a fit Subject of Enquiry, how it comes to paſs, that conſidering what vaſt Quantities of Cinnamon have been exported from this Iſland, and ſold all over the World, by the *Europeans* as well as Natives, not only for theſe two hundred Years laſt paſt; and ſince the Way thither by the *Eaſt-Indies* hath been found out by the *Portugueze*, but for ſeveral Centuries before (for it was diſcovered and known long before) I ſay, how, conſidering this, it comes to paſs, that there are yet ſuch Numbers of good Trees fit to be Bark'd, remaining in the Iſland and growing there every Year? Now in order to ſolve this Queſtion, ſeveral Authors, who deſcrib'd the iſland of *Ceylon*, committed a conſiderable Miſtake, when they aſſure their Readers, that when the Bark hath been ſtripp'd off the Tree, it grows again in four or five Years, and becomes fit to be ſtripp'd a ſecond Time. I can aſſure you, Sir, that this Aſſertion is entirely contrary to the Courſe of Nature and Obſervation: Nor do I believe, that there is any one Tree whatever in any Part of the World, which, if it was entirely ſtripp'd of its Bark, could ſubſiſt and grow any longer: That Part at leaſt, where the Bark hath been taken off, will quickly grow dry, and ſo die away; but the Root in the mean while remains entire and in good Condition; and this ſhews the Reaſon why there is ſuch a Number of Trees fit to be Bark'd every Year. For although the Cinnamon Trees, after the Bark hath been once taken off, is cut down to the very Root, as they do in *Europe* Oaks, Birch-Trees, Alders and Willows, yet the Root will quickly puſh forth new Shoots, which will ripen in a ſhort Time, I mean in five, ſix, ſeven or eight Years, ſome ſooner, ſome later, and then yield their Quantity

tity of the Bark. Hence it appears, how far the old Roots are inſtrumental to the Growth and Plenty of Cinnamon Trees, but the Fruit which falls from the Trees, contributes very much towards the ſame End: And it is particularly owing to a certain kind of wild Doves, which from their feeding on the Fruit of the Cinnamon-Tree, they call *Cinnamon-eaters*, that theſe Trees grow ſo plentifully in this Iſland; for the Doves, when they fetch Food for their young ones, flying here and there, diſperſe vaſt Quantities of the Fruit all over the Fields, which occaſions the Riſe of many thouſand young Trees, which one ſhall ſee here and there along the Roads in ſuch Quantities together, that they look like a little Wood. So plentifully grows this excellent Tree in this Iſland; I call it excellent, becauſe indeed I don't know of any other that is preferable to it. I need not point out to you what remarkable Foot-ſteps of Divine Providence the Hiſtory of the Cinnamon Tree affords to an attentive Eye.

There is hardly any thing ſo univerſally grateful, and eſteemed by all Nations, as true Cinnamon. The Oil drawn out of it by Fire is reckoned one of the ſtrongeſt Cordial Medicines: The Camphire which comes out of the Root, is likewiſe of great Uſe in ſeveral Diſtempers, as are alſo the Oil of Camphire, a very coſtly Thing, the Leaves of the Tree, and the Oil diſtilled out of them; and laſtly, the Fruits with their Oil. In ſhort, there is no Part of the Cinnamon Tree, but what is of ſome ſingular Uſe or other in Phyſick. I purpoſely avoid ſpeaking of the large Gains the Company makes by the yearly Export of this precious Commodity.

Some Additions to the foregoing Account, by Albertus Seba. *F. R. S.*

AS a farther Explanation of this curious Account of the Cinnamon Trees, it will not be amiſs to ſubjoin the following Obſervations. Having ſome Years ago bought out of the *Eaſt-India* Company's Warehouſes at *Amſterdam*, a conſiderable Quantity of Cinnamon Leaves, or *Folia Malabathri*, pack'd up in ſeveral large Cheſts, I happen'd to find in one of them the Flowers of the Cinnamon, as big as the *Italian* Bean-flowers, and of a blue Colour; I chanced likewiſe to meet with the Fruit. But I could not find either in any of the other Cheſts.

In 1722 and 1723, I bought of the ſame Company the Oil, which is expreſſed out of the Fruit of the Cinnamon Tree, as alſo that which is boil'd out of them, which is of a very good Conſiſtence and white, and is by the *Eaſt-India* Company called Cinnamon Wax, becauſe the King of *Candia* cauſes Candles to be made out of it, which for their agreeable Scent, are burnt only by himſelf and at his Court. However he permits his Subjects to expreſs the Juice out of another Fruit, not unlike the Fruit of the Cinnamon Tree; but this Juice being only a thin fat Subſtance, like Oil of Olives, they cannot burn it any otherwiſe but in Lamps.

The *Indians* uſe this Cinnamon Wax alſo in Phyſick, and give it inwardly in Luxations, Fractures, Falls, Contuſions and Bruiſes, that in caſe any inward Part be touch'd or bruiſed, it may by its Balſamick

Virtues heal them. They give it alſo in Bloody Fluxes to one Dram or a Dram and a half. Outwardly applied, it makes the Skin more beautiful, ſmoother and ſofter, than any one known ſort of Pomade.

The Leaves of the Cinnamon Tree yield alſo an Oil, which is of a bitteriſh Taſte, reſembling Oil of Cloves mix'd with a little good Oil of Cinnamon. It is called *Oleum Malabathri*, or Oil of Cinnamon Leaves. It is an Aromatick, and is reckoned an excellent Remedy in Headaches, Pains of the Stomach, and other Diſtempers.

The Oil of the Root of the Cinnamon Tree is, properly ſpeaking, an Oil of Camphire, the Roots affording a good Quantity of Camphire. About two Years ago, or ſomewhat longer, I bought a Bottle of it of our *Eaſt-India* Company at my own Price. There were ſeveral Bottles together in a Box, upon which was wrote in Low Dutch *Deſe Oliteyten ſyn tot cen geſchenk nyt Candia geſchikt*; that is, *theſe Oils were ſent as a Preſent out of* Candia, which ſhews that they are genuine, without any Adulteration; accordingly they are very much eſteemed. If this Oil be diſtilled in Glaſs Veſſels, there comes over along with it, that ſort of Camphire which the *Indians* call *Camphire Baros*, or Camphire of *Borneo*, which ſhoots in thin tranſparent Chriſtals, forming a beautiful Variety of Trees on the Recipient, not unlike thoſe, which in very froſty Weather are to be ſeen upon Windows. This ſort of Camphire is of very great Efficacy in Phyſick, and is gathered and kept for the King of *Candia* his own Uſe, who eſteems it an excellent Cordial Medicine. But not only the Camphire of *Baros*, but alſo the Oil of Cam-

phire, which is drawn out of the Roots of the Cinnamon Tree, is a very great Cordial, if taken inwardly: It ſtrengthens the Stomach, expels Wind, and hath been found of great Uſe in arthritick and gouty Diſorders: It is alſo a Diuretick. The Doſe is ten or twelve Drops upon a bit of Sugar, or in a proper Vehicle. Outwardly it is applied in all arthritick Pains from Cold and Obſtructions, being rubb'd on the affected Part with a warm Hand, and it will preſently leſſen the Pain, and by Degrees take it off. It is now about ſix and thirty Years ſince, ſerving in the Shop of Mr. *Nicolas Dumbſtdorff* at *Amſterdam*, that Gentleman was then ſo cruelly afflicted with arthritick Pains, that he could have no Reſt neither Night nor Day; and although he called in the Aſſiſtance of ſeveral noted Phyſicians, and tried abundance of Medicines, yet he could find no Relief, till he was adviſed to cauſe himſelf to be anointed with the Oil of the Root of the Cinnamon Tree; of which he then happen'd to have a good Quantity by him. I remember very well, that I anointed him my ſelf, rubbing the Oil on all the affected Parts with my Hand warm'd by holding it to an Oven, and this I did twice every Day for an Hour together. And though, when this Cure was firſt begun with him, his Hands and Feet were by the Convulſions and the Violence of his Pain ſo contracted, that they grew quite crooked, and were full of Nodes, yet in a Fortnight's Time he grew ſo much better, that he could ſleep well at Nights, feeling neither Pains nor Cramps. In about ſix Weeks Time he could walk about his Room, whereas before the Anointing he was not able to ſtir either Hand or Foot. This Anointing was continued for about three Months, when the Patient not only recover'd of

that

that violent Indiſpoſition, but continued free from the Gout ever after, and lived about fifteen Years in a very good State of Health. And this I cannot only affirm to be true of my own certain Knowledge; but alſo, that ſince that Time I have adviſed ſeveral People in his Condition to do the ſame with as good Succeſs. Several Phyſicians have wrote largely of the Virtues of common Camphire, but there are as yet many hidden Qualities in this excellent Medicine. Thus, for Inſtance, I can affirm, that in all Burnings, by Fire or otherwiſe, in any Part of the Body, and the Pains occaſioned thereby, I have not yet met with any better and ſurer Medicine than this following.

℞. *Spir. Lumbricor. terreſtr. cum Spir. Vini rectificat* ʒxij. *Camphor.* ʒij. M.

No ſooner is a Bandage, or Compreſs, dipp'd into this Spirit, applied to the affected Part, but it will give inſtant Relief, and ſo effectually check the Inflammation, that it will creep no farther. But the Application of it muſt be continued till the Pain is quite gone, and the *Ulcus*, if there hath been any, is dried up. If the Exulceration is got deeper, and the Wound muſt be kept open, two Ounces of Camphire diſſolved in *Oleo Hyperici*, mix'd with a Pound of the common *Unguentum Ceruſſæ*, applied according to Art, will quickly and effectually heal it, as I have often experienced.